

Mayor Stanley M. Taylor

26th Mayor of Lehi

1934-35

In an unusual development in the fall of 1933, incumbent Mayor Isaac W. Fox was not renominated by his party. Local politics had become heated over the perceived inability of the current administration to maintain a profitable operation of the municipal power plant. Despite a lengthy October 26, 1933 letter to the “Lehi Sun” from mayor Fox stating that the plant “had paid its own way, carried its own burdens, and has given satisfactory service,” the local Republican party instead nominated local businessman Stanley M. Taylor to run against the Democratic candidate Stanley Clark. Undaunted, mayor Fox and supporters formed a new political party, which they named the “Citizens” and “Taxpapers” Party.”

When election results were tabulated Taylor, who had campaigned on the promise that “Our Light Plant will Pay,” was declared winner. Those elected to serve with him included: Virgil H. Peterson, Glen R. Adamson, Edward J. Larsen, Charles L. Johnson (councilmen); recorder J.O. Melling, treasurer Inez Peterson, marshal Niron Fowler; justice Thomas Webb, and attorney William Asher.

Stanley Maurice Taylor, grandson of pioneer Lehi settlers James Whitehead Taylor and Ann Rogers, was a son of James William and Julie E. Smith Taylor. Born on May 2, 1897, young Taylor grew up in town, graduating from Lehi High School in 1916 where he was recognized as the school’s outstanding athlete. The 1915-16 Purple and White fondly called him “A steadfast genius toiling gallantly.”

After returning from World war I, where he fought in the muddy trenches of France, Taylor married Beatrice Anderson. They eventually became the parents of four children. By profession, the future mayor was a pharmacist, having been drawn into the apothecary sciences by his older brother Gerald.

In September 1917, Gerald R. Taylor and John Franklin Bradshaw had

purchased the Lehi Drug Store from H.B. Merrihew. Bradshaw a wealthy entrepreneur, served as the company's president, Taylor as the pharmacist. Initially the new corporation was know as Bradshaw-Taylor and Company. But in 1919 when the firm traded the Merrihew Building to the Bank of Lehi in exchange for the Lehi Opera House and the Garff Building immediately west, it became known as the Lehi Drug Company.

The two-story Garff Building at 162 West Main (where as earlier drugstore had been) was demolished and a large brick building built on the site in 1919 (still standing today). The second story of the completed building became the Rose Cabaret, where dancing and entertainments were held. A player piano furnished the music and on sultry summer days when the windows were open the sonorous melody of the Nickelodeon drifted along Main Street. The stairway made it convenient to saunter down for a sundae, malt, or a thirst-quenching soda. In 1946 this area was converted into an apartment (which it remains today).

In 1921, twenty-four-year-old Stanley Taylor, having completed a pharmacy correspondence course, passed the state exams and was taken into the Lehi Drug Company as a partner. On May 12, 1926 the company purchased property from the People's Co-op immediately east of the Royal Theatre and constructed State Street Drug. Stan assumed management of this store.

Both Lehi Drug Company outlets had up-to-date soda fountains, a fine line of sundries which included R.C.A, radios, and sporting goods. Their pharmacy was stocked with Rexall products--then the world's largest distributors of drugs. State Street Drug also had a lunch counter and was the Lehi station for both Greyhound and Continental Trailways buses.

In 1927 or 1928 the Taylor brothers bought out Bradshaw. They continued to operate the two stores jointly until 1950 when Stan assumed sole ownership of State Street Drug and Gerald became proprietor of the Lehi Drug Store. In January 1959, after forty-one years of proprietorship with the Lehi drug store, Gerald Taylor retired and sold the business to Abel J. Ekins, his son-in-law. Two years later Stan

Taylor closed State Street Drug and became the manager of Hawks Drug Company (later Salt Lake Drug Company) in Salt Lake City.

Mayor Taylor, like Mayor Fox before him, spent most of his term solving various problems caused by the Depression. Few Lehi families had money. Most were living hand-to-mouth, and grateful for what little government support they could get--such as free FERA tomato plants. A new high school tennis court was built with FERA labor in June 1934. The following month local FERA chairman W. B. Jenkinson resigned and was replaced by Clifford Austin. Austin told me before he died recently that he never forgot the despair in the faces of men who approached him daily looking for work when there were too few jobs to go around.

Federally funded projects during Mayor Taylor's administration included laying a new floor on the Jordan River Bridge and graveling the road two miles west, building bleachers at the high school football field and upgrading the city waterworks. The original wood stave water mains had deteriorated to the point that they could scarcely maintain water pressure. Cast iron pipe was purchased and with the help of the W.P.A. labor most of the water system was refurbished. Considerable work was also done at School House Springs in Alpine, where all of the city's culinary then came from.

Water meters were installed at each residence during this administration and for the first time citizens were required to pay for the amount of water they used. Mayor Taylor's administration was also historic in the fact that for the first time, Lehi City Corporation published a tentative budget.

After serving a single term, Mayor Taylor did not seek re-election. His civic activities did not cease, however. He was a charter member of the Lehi Lion's Club, the Lehi Civic Improvement Association and Lehi Post of the American Legion. During World War II, he served as local chairman of six of the seven war bond drives. And at the war's conclusion, he became Utah County chairman of the Veterans Employment Placement Committee.

From 1941 until 1947 the former mayor served continuously as commander of the local American Legion Post as well as District Commander. In these positions he was instrumental in contacting every returning Lehi veteran to inform them of the educational opportunities under the G.I. Bill.

After a distinguished career in pharmaceutical, civic, veteran, and LDS Church activities, former Mayor Stanley M. Taylor died June 28, 1982 at the age of eighty-five. Interment was in the Lehi City Cemetery.